almost to nothing, and these communities are heading for extinction. In his Galton Lecture Sir Josiah Stamp had to face this question ; but he was not able to give a plain answer. Dr. Fisher, weighing his words carefully so as to obtain a statement agreed by all sections of biological and statistical opinion, and so as not to involve any question still *sub judice*, describes our present structure of society as " tending to couple genetic qualities, making for economic and social success, with those making for low fertility." Sir Josiah greets this statement with an " Even if it be true," and then goes on to say that, even after he has been convinced of its truth, he still will not worry, but will be satisfied if a fresh layer of ability is brought to the surface in each generation, even though it then becomes sterile. This seems to be biologically improvident, to say the least of it.

The fundamental need of our community now is to *increase* the fertility of nearly all sections, and particularly of those carrying genetically valuable qualities (though the methods by which these qualities can be recognised are by no means yet perfect). On this problem the author can give us no suggestions, but in his last chapter he gives his backing to a programme of research into population questions recently submitted by Professors Carr-Saunders and Hogben.

In this last chapter also he makes two very interesting suggestions with regard to scientific investigations and their industrial applition. He wants a full-dress inquiry into the working of the Patent Laws, which he suggests are obsolete, and also the creation of a statutory body something like the war-time " Awards to Inventors " committee. This committee should safeguard the interests of, and secure fair remuneration for, inventors producing valuable discoveries, should disallow " blocking patents " and frivolous claims, and should actively promote the fullest economic exploitation of all new discoveries.

Lastly comes a proposal regarding the physical sciences—namely, that the learned societies representing each science should hold an annual stocktaking of all discoveries made in their field during the past year likely to be of economic value—either now or in the future—and to survey the progress of discoveries from their original form up to full economic practicability. The information thus obtained might be even more interesting to those engaged in the science the to industrialists or the general public.

The book is written in the smooth and easily-flowing style which we have come to expect from this author, and thus a series of difficult subjects have been opened out by him to a wide field of readers. There is one first-rate story in the middle of one of the lectures, warning us not to expect too much from technical progress—the story of a man who had trouble with his car, and explained : Well, I bought a carburetter which saved 50 per cent. of the petrol, an induction gadget that saved 30 per cent., and a sparking plug that saved 25 per cent., and when I had gone ten miles my petrol tank overflowed."

Two distinguished continental economists, Professors Baudhuin and Warming, will not like having their names spelt wrong.

COLIN CLARK.

EUGENICS

Cattell, Raymond B. *The Fight for Our National Intelligence.* London, 1937. King. Pp. xx+166. Price 8s. 6d.

APPROXIMATELY one-half of this book is reprinted from Dr. Cattell's important article in the EUGENICS REVIEW, Vol. XXVIII, No. 3. But several sections of the article have been considerably expanded, and readers of the REVIEW will find it worth their while to study these. The author traces out fully the probable social, economic and political consequences of decline in the level of national intelligence. Although himself inclined to socialist views, he condemns the increase in private charity and public provision for the social services ; since, at present, this encourages more prolific breeding among those of low intelligence. State socialism must include State control over births. He also analyzes from the psychological viewpoint the difficulties in getting the public, the press, and the politicians to

realize the seriousness of the situation; and the reasons which seem to have led to the great decrease in birth-rate among intelligent people.

Dr. Cattell's researches have supplied the best scientific evidence yet available for the inverse correlation between intelligence and fertility. But even his arguments are weakened by our ignorance of the extent of the differential death-rate. He fails to discuss the latter problem, though from certain diagrams on p. 123 he clearly admits that there is a somewhat greater proportion of deaths before adulthood among the poorer stocks. Although it is unlikely that this factor compensates for the differential birth-rate, as it did fifty years ago, yet we certainly need to take it into account before we can validly predict the intelligence level of succeeding generations.

A few criticisms may be raised against some of the technical portions of the book. Psychologists in general certainly do not accept Dr. Cattell's extreme position with regard to the ineffectiveness of environment in raising or lowering the intelligence quotient. Admittedly the effect is far too small to counteract a large continuous decrease in inherited level, but there is plenty of evidence for its existence. He usually dismisses this evidence on the grounds that it was obtained with the Stanford-Binet test, which is " unduly susceptible to environmental influences." But we have yet to find a test which is not susceptible. Moreover, most of the best evidence for the constancy of the I.Q. was obtained with this selfsame test.

The statement that 75 per cent. of the children of feebleminded parents are also feebleminded has already been questioned by Professor Haldane.* Although Dr. Cattell has answered his objections very fully, the statement is difficult to reconcile with Professor Burt's carefully collected data, and with the law of filial regression.

However, a more moderate attitude towards these points would not affect the main conclusions of the book. The *Eugenics Society* may well congratulate itself on the achievement of the first of its Leonard Darwin Research Fellows; and it should immediately make full use of his results as a goad for awakening the national conscience to eugenic aims.

P. E. VERNON.

* EUGENICS REVIEW, Vol. XXVIII, No. 4, p. 333.

CENSORSHIP

Craig, Alec. *The Banned Books of England.* London, 1937. George Allen & Unwin. Pp. 207. Price 7s. 6d.

THIS book gives a very fair account of a surprisingly large number of recent cases in which books have been suppressed in England by legal proceedings, and a concise and accurate summary of the law. Books are suppressed on the ground of indecency, and not, as in the seventeenth century, for heresy or blasphemy, but that, as the author points out, is because public interest has shifted from religion to sex. Persecution has not changed its nature.

The law of England, as laid down by Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, who somewhat quaintly appears as an upholder of morals, defines an obscene book as one whose "tendency . . . is to deprave and corrupt those whose minds are open to such immoral influences"—words which have been rightly taken by subsequent tribunals to include any book whatever. Accordingly, when proceedings are taken, a book is usually condemned, the presiding judge or magistrate saying with truth that it would have been regarded as grossly indecent in times he well remembers half a century ago.

The following general principles may be laid down: (1) Proceedings are never taken against the Bible, books in Latin or Greek, and books which were in circulation before the great Victorian age of prudery. (2) Proceedings are always taken against books giving really detailed descriptions of sexual acts or containing any of the words which figure so largely in the spoken English of the poor but which may not be printed. Synonyms are permitted. (3) In the case of other books there is no general principle. *Bessie Cotter* was suppressed because the scene of